

**TOWN OF SOMERS
FIRE DEPARTMENT STUDY AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, February 6, 2016
Immediately Following 12pm Fire Commission Special Meeting
Somers Fire Station**

Call to Order:

First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 12:18pm.

Members Present:

Members present included First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini (by conference call), Selectman Kathy Devlin (by conference call), Mr. Keith Burger and Mr. David Palmer. Mr. Andy Rockett was not available.

Approval of Fire Department Study Ad Hoc Committee Minutes:

November 4, 2015 Minutes:

Mr. Burger made a motion to approve the Fire Department Study Ad Hoc Committee Minutes from November 4, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion passed.

Disbanding of Fire Department Study Ad Hoc Committee:

Mr. Burger distributed the attached letter from Ms. Pellegrini informing the Ad Hoc Committee members the Selectmen voted to officially disband the Ad Hoc Committee and thanking them for their service.

Ms. Devlin made a motion to accept the letter, noting the committee is now disbanded, seconded by Mr. Burger. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

Ms. Devlin made a motion to adjourn the last Fire Department Study Ad Hoc Committee Meeting at 12:20pm, seconded by Mr. Burger. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Pellegrini-Recording

TOWN OF SOMERS

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FIRST SELECTMAN
Lisa Pellegrini

TEL. (860) 763-8200
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SELECTMAN
Kathleen Devlin
Bud Knorr

February 4, 2016

Somers Fire Dept. Study Ad Hoc Committee:
Mr. Keith Burger
Selectman Kathy Devlin
Mr. David Palmer
Mr. Andy Rockett
Town of Somers
Somers, CT 06071

Dear Fire Dept. Study Ad Hoc Committee Members,

With the task of hiring of a paid fire chief finished, the work of the Fire Department Study Ad Hoc Committee is now complete. As a result the Board of Selectmen voted at their January 7, 2016 Regular Meeting to officially disband the Fire Department Study Ad Hoc Committee immediately following one last meeting of the Committee to approve the last meeting's minutes.

Words cannot express my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your service on the Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee was charged with a very difficult mission to essentially chart a path to transitioning from a volunteer fire chief to a paid fire chief. Although the topic was recognized as being highly visible and potentially emotional the Committee carried out their mission with much grace, fairness and professionalism, ensuring that all groups and individuals were heard and all options vetted.

As a result, after almost twenty years, a Fire Commission Ordinance was adopted, the budget was passed, an agreement with the Town and the Volunteer Association was signed, the Town's Charter was revised, a job description for the Fire Chief was developed, a hiring committee formed and the Fire Chief hired. This was all done in a calm, cool and collected manner that now serves as a model to other Connecticut towns. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, it is my honor to thank you and congratulate you on a job extremely well done. Best wishes to you all on your "retirement" and we look forward to working with you all again in the future.

Sincerely,



Lisa Pellegrini
First Selectman

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Fire Chief John Roache